Abstract

A technique for lessening the likelihood of congestion in a congestible node is disclosed. In the illustrative embodiment, the proxy node resides in the path of the protocol data units en route to a congestible node and the proxy node decides whether to drop protocol data units *en route* to the congestible node. In some embodiments of the present invention, the proxy node comprises a larger queue for the protocol data units than does the congestible node. The illustrative embodiment of the present invention is useful because it enables the manufacture of "lightweight" nodes without large queues and without the horsepower needed to run an algorithm, such as the Random Early Detection algorithm, for deciding which protocol data units to drop. Furthermore, the illustrative embodiment is useful because it can lessen the likelihood of congestion in legacy nodes.